Claims

1.[CURRENTLY AMENDED] . A method for business decision support with a computing means for creating a part of an economic venture for evaluating human resources utilizing an information network with a plurality of members – a Professional Collaboration Network with at least one Professional layer and at least one Trust Layer comprising:

accessing a professional ability for at least one member, from the at least one Professional Layer with members wherein the professional ability of said members may be assessed using third party knowledge of said members;

accessing a Trust Reference for at least one member from the at least one Trust Layer with members, with linkages generated by dialog, thereby generating at least one connected network of members comprising pairs of connected members and each member of each of said connected networks of members being connected to every other member of said connected network through a series of pair-wise connections between members of one of said at least one Trust Layer in said connected network, and wherein a unique path along said pair-wise linkages between any two of said members with any one pair-wise linkage traversed only once, is a connection thread, and wherein the Trust Reference is generated by the contents of such a connection thread between any two members of said at least one Trust Network;

.combining for a First Member of the at least one Professional Layer and the at least one Trust Layer a user of the decision support system, with access to said response histories of members of at least one of said Professional Layers and linkages between members of at least one of said Trust Layers, wherein said user evaluates an evaluated the professional ability and the Trust Reference for at least one Second Member of the at least one Professional Layer and the at least one Trust Layer member wherein said evaluated member is a member of at least one of said Professional Layers and at least one of said Trust Networks ;

thereby enabling the user of the decision support system to evaluate for said First Member, the professional reputation and Trust Reference of said evaluated at least one member Second Member using the response history of said evaluated at least one member Second Member and references of members in a connected network to which said at least one second evaluated member belongs.

2. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] A method for business decision support for creating an economic venture as in claim 1, wherein said accessing the Trust Reference from the at least one Trust Layer further comprising :

querying the at least one Trust Layer of the Professional Collaboration Network comprising trust linkages representing trust measures, between members of the Professional Collaboration Network for the Second Member;

.obtaining in response from the Trust Layer, communications from a set of members –first level Trust Members - that affirm a level of trust of the Second Member;

.querying at least one Trust Layer of the Professional Collaboration Network comprising trust linkages affirming trust measures of said first level Trust Members, of the Professional Collaboration Network for each of said first level Trust Members;

.obtaining in response from the Trust Layer of the Professional Collaboration Network , communications from a set of members –second level Trust Members - that affirm a level of trust of the first level Trust Members for each of the first level Trust Members;

.iteratively as in the last two steps obtaining a chain of trust linkages with communications between corresponding nth and (n+1)th level Trust Members to affirm a level of trust of the nth level Trust Member by the (n+1)th level Trust Member thereby building a connection thread;

.terminating the iterations of the last step when a predetermined number –M- of Trust Members of level (n+1) or less are determined to be the First Member, thereby generating M complete connection threads;

.computing one or more aggregate trust measures from the resulting M or less, iterative trust levels available to the First Member.
wherein a strength of linkage in said Trust Network between pairs of members comprises at least one of the nature of, and the frequency of dialog between said pairs of members.

3. .[CURRENTLY AMENDED] A method for business decision support for creating an economic venture as in claim 1, wherein said accessing the professional ability of at least one member from the Professional Layer space of fields is a Euclidean space comprises:

.creating a forum for interaction of the members and treads for each discussion topic;

.visually representing components of professional fields of members along multiple axes representing multiple field types, about an origin, wherein the distance from the origin represents the level of competence;

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.visually representing each posting of each member on said forum with components of professional field content in the posting along multiple axes representing multiple field types, about an origin, wherein the distance from the origin represents the proportion of content in each relevant field;

. visually representing each response to a posting or another response of each member on said forum with components of professional field content in the posting along multiple axes representing multiple field types, about an origin, wherein the distance from the origin represents the proportion of content in each relevant field;

.thereby creating a tree of different field strength components with accumulated responses;

.accumulating the contributions of each member ;

thereby using the accumulated contributions of members to assess professional competence in any of the fields represented as dimensions.

~~with dimensions representing fields.~~

4. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] A method for business decision support for creating an economic venture as in claim 3, wherein the termination of any branch of the tree from any thread provides information on the professional competence of the last contributor to the thread. ~~1, wherein said references of members are from members with direct linkages to the evaluated member.~~

5. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] A method for business decision support for creating an economic venture as in claim 1, wherein said fist member is a member of a different Trust Layer of the at least one Trust Layer, to the Second Member.
~~wherein said user of said decision support system is a member of said Trust Layer and said Evaluated member and said user belong to the same connected network, and wherein said user references are generated by pair-wise evaluation along one or more connection threads of a reputation of each member along said connection thread from said user to the member of the connected network with a linkage to the Evaluated Member, in conjunction with the reference of the Evaluated Member.~~

6. [CURRENTLY AMENDED] A method for business decision support for creating an economic venture as in claim 2 ~~1~~, wherein Reputation Guarantees are provided for members of the Trust layer further comprises the (n+1)th level Trust Member offering a (n+1)th level Reputation Guarantee with a payout and a premium for the integrity of an nth level Trust Member contingent on the nth level Trust Member offering a nth level

Reputation Guarantee with a payout and a premium for the integrity of an $(n-1)^{th}$ level Trust Member wherein thereby iteratively, the value of "n" changes along said connection thread to "0" as defined by the said Second Member along a complete thread and wherein said reputation guarantees from the (n+1)th level Trust Member to the said Second Member creates a chain of reputation guarantees that support the reputation of the Second Member relative to the (n+1)th Trust Member. ~~wherein said reputation provided by a first member of a second member with a direct linkage along a connection thread is guaranteed thereby creating a reputation guarantee along a linkage, and each of the linkages in said connection thread have reputation guarantees thereby creating a guaranteed connection thread.~~

7. .[CURRENTLY AMENDED] A method for business decision support for creating an economic venture as in claim 6,
wherein said (n+1)th Trust Member is the First Member and said chain of reputation guarantees are provided for a guarantee premium~~fee~~ representing the aggregate of the reputation guraantee premia paid by the ~~user~~First Member.

8. .[CURRENTLY AMENDED] A method for business decision support for creating an economic venture as in claim 7,
wherein the~~a~~ payout related to the guarantee ~~fee~~ is paid by each of said guarantors, through the Professional Collaboration Network, if the reference proves ~~to be invalid~~not to predict outcome.

9. [PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED] A method for business decision support for creating an economic venture as in claim 8, wherein a financial institution underwrites one or more of said reputation guarantees.

10. .[CURRENTLY AMENDED] A method for business decision support for creating an economic venture as in claim 1, further comprising a bidding system wherein said First Member~~user~~ may publish specifications for participation of one or more of said members and invite bids for participation and thereafter utilize the Trust Layer and the Professional Layer to evaluate prospects in the context of bids received.

11. [CANCELLED]~~A method for business decision support for creating an economic venture as in claim 1 wherein said professional layer comprises members that are one or both of querying members and responding members, wherein queries of a querying member in a defined field in a space of fields, is responded to by at least one responding member with a response in a defined field in said space of fields evaluated for relevance by said querying member, thereby one or more responses of said query creating a response trajectory in said space of fields and relevance to said query, and sequences of responses of each of said members to one or more queries creating a response history and a related professional reputation for each of said responding members;~~

12. .[CURRENTLY AMENDED] A method for business decision support for creating an economic venture as in claim 1, wherein said Professional layer comprises experts who can evaluate a member and are members of the at least one Trust Layer and therefore may have connection threads to the First Member and thereby enable a Trust Reference by the Professional Collaboration Network.